



Carol Roessler
STATE SENATOR

March 15, 2004

Brady Onsager
111 West Main Street
Omro, WI 54963-1333

Dear Brady,

Thank you for your recent contact on Senate Bill 72, relating to increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders or alcoholism or other drug abuse problems.

You will be pleased to know that Senate Bill 72 was not addressed by the full Senate before the end of session, March 11, 2004. The Senate is currently in Extraordinary Session, however, SB 72 will not be acted on.

I did support Senate Bill 72. I do believe that mental health should be treated on the same level as a person's physical health. Mental illness is a serious medical condition which can lead to more costly and "covered" physical conditions. Individuals suffering from mental illness should be afforded medical coverage that sufficiently meets their needs. The coverage requirements currently set forth in statute were intended to establish minimum coverage amounts, however, they have been viewed as maximums.

Senate Bill 72 increases the required coverage amounts on the basis of the change in the consumer price index for medical services since the coverage amounts were enacted. I view this as fair and not exorbitant. Coverage for inpatient services has not been increased since 1985 and outpatient since 1992. The current level of coverage required has not kept pace with the cost to provide mental health services.

Ensuring that individuals suffering from mental illness get the treatment they need is a positive for the economy.

- A National Institute of Mental Health sponsored study revealed that mental and addictive disorders cost \$300 billion annually: productivity losses of \$150 billion, health care costs of \$70 billion, and other costs (such as criminal justice) of \$80 billion. The MIT Sloan School of Management found in 1995 that clinical depression costs American businesses \$28.8 billion a year in lost productivity and absenteeism.

- Businesses that provide insurance coverage of mental illnesses have found an unexpected benefit in reduced sick leave for physical ailments. Increased productivity and fewer sick days have resulted in a net positive for these businesses.

Senate Bill 72 passed the Senate Health Committee 5-4 on September 4, 2003. The bill will need to be referred to the Joint Committee on Finance for review and action.

I do very much understand your concerns relating to the skyrocketing cost of health care. I recognize the severity of this issue and the negative affects it is having on businesses, small ones in particular. As you well know, the increase in health care costs is a comprehensive problem that needs to be addressed on many fronts. An aging population, increased use of technology, insufficient Medicare reimbursement for services, duplication of services provided (hospital construction), lack of consumer choice and provider accountability, etc. are all factors contributing to the cost of health care.

While there is no silver bullet solution to this problem, my colleagues and I are proactively exploring options to help alleviate some of the cost burden. For example, I am currently working with a work group representing businesses, hospitals, and health plans. This group has presented an initiative ready to address some of the issues surrounding health care costs. In short, we are hoping to help improve accountability and competition among service providers, increase consumer choice and reduce duplicative red tape within the health care system.

The introduction and passage of Senate Bill 204 represents a proactive effort to help businesses better afford quality health care. This bill authorizes a health benefit purchasing cooperative pilot project. The overriding goals are to stabilize insurance rates, improve health care delivery in rural Wisconsin and, most importantly, provide affordable, quality health care coverage to farmers and other small employers who have little or no access to health insurance. I have included a copy of SB 204 for your review.

I encourage you to bring any suggestions forward that you feel may help to ease the burden of health care costs for small businesses.

While our views on SB 72 differ, I respect your position and will keep you up to date as this bill moves through the Legislative process.

Sincerely,



CAROL ROESSLER
State Senator
18th Senate District

Onsager, Brady
111 W Main St
Omro, WI 54963-1333

Email: bjomort@charter.net

Contact Date: 02/28/2004

Contact Type: E-mail

Summary: SB 72 - CR's position on this

Issue:

Position:

Description: Jennifer - CR should know that he contacted her on this bill - Thanks - K

-----Original Message-----

From: bjomort@charter.net [mailto:bjomort@charter.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2004 2:44 AM
To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: [Fwd: Senate Bill 72]

>
> From: <bjomort@charter.net>
> Date: 2004/02/28 Sat AM 04:40:02 GMT
> To: sen.roessler@charter.net
> CC: <bjomort@charter.net>
> Subject: Senate Bill 72
>
> Greetings from Omro...
>
> Hello, Carol,
>
> I want to let you know how I feel about the proposal to increase health insurance costs by legislating additional required coverages.
>
> I am opposed to nearly all mandates. This is no exception.
>
> Could you let me know your position on this?
>
> Thanks...Your friend-
> Brady Onsager
> President-1st Mortgage Advisors, Omro
> President-Omro Area Chamber of Commerce
> Republican Team Leader
>
>

*Yps + States is
Failed!!*

*CR call - or
send SB 72
letter sent to
other contacts in
the past
(attached)*

§ modifications

Status: Done

Closed Date: 03/05/2004

Assigned: Halbur, Jennifer

Owner: Halbur, Jennifer

Note **Note Date:** 03/05/2004

Summary: BC sent name to Jennifer for her list.

Contact Type:

Description:

September 22, 2003

X
X
X

Dear X,

Thank you for your recent contact on Senate Bill 72, relating to increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders or alcoholism or other drug abuse problems.

I do support Senate Bill 72, and believe that mental health should be treated on the same level as a person's physical health. Mental illness is serious. Individuals suffering from mental illness should be afforded medical coverage that sufficiently meets their needs. The coverage requirements currently set forth in statute were intended to establish minimum coverage amounts, however, they have been viewed as maximums.

Senate Bill 72 increases the required coverage amounts on the basis of the change in the consumer price index for medical services since the coverage amounts were enacted. I view this as fair and not exorbitant. Coverage for inpatient services has not been increased since 1985 and outpatient since 1992. The current level of coverage required has not kept pace with the cost to provide mental health services.

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- Businesses that provide insurance coverage of mental illnesses have found an unexpected benefit in reduced sick leave for physical ailments. Increased productivity and fewer sick days have resulted in a net positive for these businesses.

You'd be pleased to know, (status)

medical conditions which can lead to more costly & uncovered physical conditions

Senate Bill 72 passed the Senate Health Committee 5-4 on September 4, 2003. The bill will need to be referred to the Joint Committee on Finance for review and action.

I do very much understand your concerns relating to the skyrocketing cost of health care. I recognize the severity of this issue and the negative affects it is having on businesses, small ones in particular. As you well know, the increase in health care costs is a comprehensive problem that needs to be addressed on many fronts. An aging population, increased use of technology, insufficient Medicare reimbursement for services, duplication of services provided (hospital construction), lack of consumer choice and provider accountability, etc. are all factors contributing to the cost of health care.

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The introduction of Senate Bill 204 is a proactive effort to help businesses better afford quality health care. This bill authorizes a health benefit purchasing cooperative pilot project. The overriding goals are to stabilize insurance rates, improve health care delivery in rural Wisconsin and, most importantly, provide affordable, quality health care coverage to farmers and other small employers who have little or no access to health insurance. I have included a copy of SB 204 for your review.

I encourage you to bring any suggestions forward that you feel may help to ease the burden of health care costs for small businesses.

While our views on SB 72 differ, I respect your position and will keep you up to date as this bill moves through the Legislative process.

Sincerely,

CAROL ROESSLER
State Senator
18th Senate District

CR:/jhs\DOCS\Jennifer\9-12-03 sb72 mental health.doc

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE



Carol Roessler
STATE SENATOR

April 8, 2004

Eugene Bengel
1332 9th Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Dear Eugene,

Now that the 2003-2004 legislative session is over I am providing you with an update on Senate Bill 72, relating to: increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders

SB 72 was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Health March 13, 2003. A public hearing was held July 22, 2003. The Committee passed SB 72 on September 15, 2004, with a 5-4 vote. No further action was taken.

I have included the bill history for you to review, which details the movement of this bill through the Legislature. This information is also available on the Wisconsin Legislature online database named Folio, accessible by visiting <http://folio.legis.state.wi.us>

Thank you for contacting me on this issue and I look forward to hearing your comments, questions, or concerns in the future.

Sincerely,

CAROL ROESSLER
State Senator
18th Senate District

S:\DOCS\Jennifer\End of 03 session update ltrs\4-8-04 sb 72 ment. health ins cov. update.doc

Contact Detail

Bengel, Eugene
1332 09th Ave
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Home: (920) 235-3041

Contact Date: 02/25/2004

Contact Type:

Summary: SB 72

Issue:

Position:

Description: Eugene is president of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. He called expressing his concerns about SB 72. He would like Sen Roessler to encourage Sen Panzer to take some action with the bill.

Status: Done

Closed Date: 03/05/2004

Assigned: Halbur, Jennifer

Owner: Halbur, Jennifer

Note **Note Date:** 03/05/2004

Summary: BC sent name to Jennifer for her list

Contact Type:

Description:

Note **Note Date:** 04/08/2004

Summary: JH sent end of session update

Contact Type:

Description:

File: S:\DOCS\Jennifer\End of 03 session update ltrs\4-8-04 sb 72 ment. health ins cov. update.doc



Carol Roessler
STATE SENATOR

April 6, 2004

Dave Vierthaler
1665 Chatham Drive
Oshkosh, WI 54904-8305

Dear Dave,

Now that the 2003-2004 legislative session is over I am providing you with an update regarding Assembly Bill 632, Senate Bill 72 and Assembly Bill 364.

Assembly Bill 632, relating to health insurance coverage of prescription medication for the treatment of diabetes, was referred to the Assembly Committee on Insurance on May 28, 2003. A public hearing was held on July 17, 2003 and an Executive Session was held on September 25, 2003. AB 632 passed the Committee with a vote of 9-5.

Senate Bill 72, relating to increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders or alcoholism or other drug abuse problems, passed the Senate Committee on Health 5-4.

Assembly Bill 364 which requires coverage of off-label drugs for the treatment of cancer, was referred to the Assembly Committee on Insurance on May 28, 2003. A public hearing was held on July 17, 2003.

No further action was taken on these bills prior to the end of the 2003 Legislative Session. I have included the bill histories for you to review, which detail the movement of these bills through the Legislature. This information is also available on the Wisconsin Legislature online database named Folio, accessible by visiting <http://folio.legis.state.wi.us>

Thank you for contacting me on these issues and I look forward to hearing your comments, questions, or concerns in the future.

Sincerely,

CAROL ROESSLER
State Senator
18th Senate District

CR/jhS:\DOCS\Jennifer\End of 03 session update ltrs\4-6-0-4 ment health diabetes cancer update ltr.doc



Carol Roessler
STATE SENATOR

October 22, 2003

Dave Vierthaler
V.P. Operations Human Resources
Bemis Company, Inc.
2200 Badger Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 549032968

Dear Dave,

Thank you for your recent contact on Senate Bill 72, relating to increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders or alcoholism or other drug abuse problems.

I do support Senate Bill 72 and believe that mental health should be treated on the same level as a person's physical health. Mental illness is serious. Individuals suffering from mental illness should be afforded medical coverage that sufficiently meets their needs. The coverage requirements currently set forth in statute were intended to establish minimum coverage amounts, however, they have been viewed as maximums.

Senate Bill 72 increases the required coverage amounts on the basis of the change in the consumer price index for medical services since the coverage amounts were enacted. I view this as fair and not exorbitant. Coverage for inpatient services has not been increased since 1985 and outpatient since 1992. The current level of coverage required has not kept pace with the cost to provide mental health services.

Ensuring that individuals suffering from mental illness get the treatment they need is a positive for the economy.

- **A National Institute of Mental Health sponsored study revealed that mental and addictive disorders cost \$300 billion annually: productivity losses of \$150 billion, health care costs of \$70 billion, and other costs (such as criminal justice) of \$80 billion. The MIT Sloan School of Management found in 1995 that clinical depression costs American businesses \$28.8 billion a year in lost productivity and absenteeism.**

- **Businesses that provide insurance coverage of mental illnesses have found an unexpected benefit in reduced sick leave for physical ailments. Increased productivity and fewer sick days have resulted in a net positive for these businesses.**

Senate Bill 72 passed the Senate Health Committee 5-4 on September 4, 2003.

Assembly Bill 362, relating to health insurance coverage of prescription medication for the treatment of diabetes, was referred to the Assembly Committee on Insurance. A public hearing was held on July 17, 2003. The Committee adopted a substitute amendment 11-3 on September 9, 2003 and passed the bill as amended 9-5.

The substitute amendment that was adopted specifies that coverage of insulin and other prescription medication for diabetes treatment may not be subject to any deductibles, co-payments, or coinsurance under a Medicare supplement policy. Unlike the original bill, the substitute amendment does not apply to other health insurance policies or the state employees plan. I have attached a short Legislative Council memo regarding the substitute amendment for your review.

Assembly Bill 364, relating to required coverage of off-label drugs for the treatment of cancer, was referred to the Assembly Committee on Insurance on May 28, 2003. A public hearing was held on the bill on July 17, 2003. This bill will not be voted out of Committee due to the fact that current law already addresses the use of off label drugs.

A few years ago, I authored legislation which is now the Patient Protection Act. This Act includes the following provisions relating to the issue of health insurance coverage of off-label cancer drugs.

- **The Patient Protection Act (1997 Act 237, s. 632.853) requires health insurers to “develop a process through which a physician may present medical evidence to obtain an individual patient exception” for coverage of drugs not routinely covered by the plan. The process must include timelines for both urgent and nonurgent review.**
- **The independent external review (IER) law (1999 Act 155, s. 632.835) makes many insurer coverage decisions, including those involving off-label cancer drugs, subject to a binding independent review. Such a review can be completed in as little as 72 hours in urgent situations.**

Given the scope of current law, I have found Assembly Bill 364 is not necessary. I have told all interested parties that I have withdrawn my support of this proposal.

I do very much understand your concerns relating to the skyrocketing cost of health care. I recognize the severity of this issue and the negative affects it is having on businesses, small ones in particular. As you well know, the increase in health care costs is a

comprehensive problem that needs to be addressed on many fronts. An aging population, increased use of technology, insufficient Medicare reimbursement for services, duplication of services provided (hospital construction), lack of consumer choice and provider accountability, etc. are all factors contributing to the cost of health care.

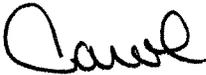
While there is no silver bullet solution to this problem, my colleagues and I are proactively exploring options to help alleviate some of the cost burden. For example, I am currently working with a work group representing businesses, hospitals, and health plans. This group will have an initiative ready in at most two months to address some of the issues surrounding health care costs. In short, we are hoping to help improve accountability and competition among service providers as well as increase consumer choice.

The introduction of Senate Bill 204 is a proactive effort to help businesses better afford quality health care. This bill authorizes a health benefit purchasing cooperative pilot project. The overriding goals are to stabilize insurance rates, improve health care delivery in rural Wisconsin and, most importantly, provide affordable, quality health care coverage to farmers and other small employers who have little or no access to health insurance. I have included a copy of SB 204 for your review.

I encourage you to bring any suggestions forward that you feel may help to ease the burden of health care costs for small businesses.

While our views on SB 72 differ, I respect your position and will keep you up to date on any further action.

Sincerely,



CAROL ROESSLER
State Senator
18th Senate District

October 21, 2003

Dave Vierthaler
V.P. Operations Human Resources
Bemis Company, Inc.
2200 Badger Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 549032968

Let see more time
Challenge
letter
5. I want to write

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I do support Senate Bill 72 and believe that mental health should be treated on the same level as a person's physical health. Mental illness is serious. Individuals suffering from mental illness should be afforded medical coverage that sufficiently meets their needs. The coverage requirements currently set forth in statute were intended to establish minimum coverage amounts, however, they have been viewed as maximums.

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Bruce is trying to find some info
penner
How about a "fact" re: other states & their insurance rates...?

BOLD
BOLD
BOLD

Senate Bill 72 passed the Senate Health Committee 5-4 on September 4, 2003.

^{BOLD}
Assembly Bill 362, relating to health insurance coverage of prescription medication for the treatment of diabetes ^{was} referred to the Assembly Committee on Insurance. A public hearing was held on July 17, 2003. The Committee adopted a substitute amendment 11-3 on September 9, 2003 and passed the bill as amended 9-5.

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^{authored legislation}
A few years ago, I worked on ~~a bill~~ which is now the Patient Protection Act. This Act includes the following provisions relating to the issue of health insurance coverage of off-label cancer drugs.

- The ~~managed care law~~ ^{Patient Protection Act} (1997 Act 237, s. 632.853) requires health insurers to "develop a process through which a physician may present medical evidence to obtain an individual patient exception" for coverage of drugs not routinely covered by the plan. The process must include timelines for both urgent and nonurgent review. ^{BOLD}
- The independent external review (IER) law (1999 Act 155, s. 632.835) makes many insurer coverage decisions, including those involving off-label cancer drugs, subject to a binding independent review. Such a review can be completed in as little as 72 hours in urgent situations. ^{BOLD}

^{have found}
Given the scope of current law, I am ~~not convinced~~ ^{un} that Assembly Bill 364 is necessary. ~~I have not been provided any information indicating the current system is broken.~~

I do very much understand your concerns relating to the skyrocketing cost of health care. I recognize the severity of this issue and the negative affects it is having on businesses, small ones in particular. As you well know, the increase in health care costs is a comprehensive problem that needs to be addressed on many fronts. An aging population, increased use of technology, insufficient Medicare reimbursement for services, duplication of services provided (hospital construction), lack of consumer choice and provider accountability, etc. are all factors contributing to the cost of health care.

~~I ~~will~~~~
^{have}
^{told}
^{all}
^{interested}
^{parties}
^{that}
^{I have}
^{withdrawn}
^{my support}
^{of this proposal.}

While there is no silver bullet solution to this problem, my colleagues and I are proactively exploring options to help alleviate some of the cost burden. For example, I am currently working with a work group representing businesses, hospitals, and health plans. This group will have an initiative ready in at most two months to address some of the issues surrounding health care costs. In short, we are hoping to help improve accountability and competition among service providers as well as increase consumer choice.

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I encourage you to bring any suggestions forward that you feel may help to ease the burden of health care costs for small businesses.

While our views on SB 72 differ, I respect your position and will keep you up to date ~~as~~ ~~this bill moves through the Legislative process.~~ *on any ~~actions~~ further*

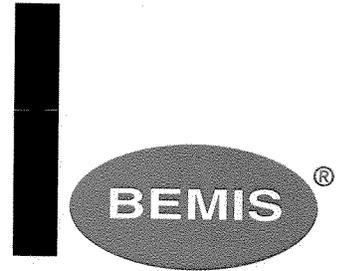
Sincerely,

Carol

CAROL ROESSLER
State Senator
18th Senate District

October 6, 2003

BEMIS COMPANY, INC.



State Senator Carol Roessler
1506 Jackson Street
Oshkosh, WI 54901

2200 Badger Avenue
P.O. Box 2968
Oshkosh, WI 54903-2968
(920) 303-7300
FAX: (920) 303-7309

Dear Senator Roessler:

Over the past few years, we have had conversations on many subjects, from education to healthcare. In most cases, we have been in agreement on the issues at hand. However, I am in complete dismay with your recent "aye" vote in favor of SB72, which mandates increased coverage for nervous, mental, and drug and alcohol abuse problems.

I know through your past work and self investigation that you are fully aware of the health care crisis and the many drivers contributing to the escalation of costs. State and Federal mandates that fully-insured plans must follow, are one of the major factors. Government mandates account for 15% of increased premiums. This only lags pharmaceutical costs and inflation as a cost driver.

Senator, business and the American public can no longer absorb "do-gooder" increases in health care coverage. Recent statistics indicate that less than half the workforce is receiving medical coverage in 2003, and the number of employees electing coverage is dropping dramatically. These statistics are directly attributable to high premium costs resulting in businesses unable to continue to offer healthcare or the employee unable to afford the coverage.

In addition, our State plans, such as Badgercare and HIRSP, cannot be burdened with these additional mandates. Particularly in a time when our State has its own fiscal concerns and small employers eliminate healthcare coverage so employees can opt for Badgercare.

In an era when the consumer's out-of-pocket expense is only 15% of total healthcare costs, it is unconscionable that state legislators would continue to burden business with mandates that will drive costs upward.

It is my understanding there are two Assembly Bills that are currently being moved forward. AB 362 that would prohibit insurance companies from subjecting insulin and other prescriptions to treat diabetes to any deductibles, co-pays or coinsurance and AB 364 would require insurance plans sold in Wisconsin to pay for "off-label" drugs that are not FDA-approved to treat cancer but are being prescribed for that purpose. These two bills will again increase costs for business. Let's hope that legislators use more common sense on these bills, than was used on SB72 by the Senate Health Committee and defeat them. Wisconsin cannot continue to absorb mandated medical costs.

Sincerely,

Dave Vierthaler
V.P. Operations Human Resources
Bemis Company, Inc.

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE



Carol Roessler
STATE SENATOR

April 8, 2004

Janet Coulahan
514 Greenwood Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935-5704

Dear Janet,

Now that the 2003-2004 legislative session is over I am providing you with an update on Senate Bill 72, relating to: increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders

SB 72 was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Health March 13, 2003. A public hearing was held July 22, 2003. The Committee passed SB 72 on September 15, 2004, with a 5-4 vote. No further action was taken.

I have included the bill history for you to review, which details the movement of this bill through the Legislature. This information is also available on the Wisconsin Legislature online database named Folio, accessible by visiting <http://folio.legis.state.wi.us>

Thank you for contacting me on this issue and I look forward to hearing your comments, questions, or concerns in the future.

Sincerely,

CAROL ROESSLER
State Senator
18th Senate District

S:\DOCS\Jennifer\End of 03 session update ltrs\4-8-04 sb 72 ment. health ins cov. update.doc



Carol Roessler
STATE SENATOR

October 29, 2003

Janet Coulahan
514 Greenwood Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935-5704

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your contact on Senate Bill 72, relating to increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders or alcoholism or other drug abuse problems.

I share your concerns relating to mental health insurance coverage. As you know, the current level of coverage required has not kept pace with the cost to provide mental health services. The coverage for inpatient services has not been increased since 1985 and outpatient since 1992.

In March of this year, the Joint Legislative Council Special Committee on Mental Health Parity issued recommendations on this issue. As a result, the Joint Legislative Council introduced Senate Bill 72. This bill increases the required coverage amounts on the basis of the change in the consumer price index for medical services since the coverage amounts were enacted. I have enclosed a copy of the bill for your review.

Senate Bill 72 passed the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care, which I chair, 5-4. The bill is now available to be scheduled for a debate before the full Senate.

Thank you again for sharing your views on these issues. I will keep you updated on the progress of Senate Bill 72.

Sincerely,

CAROL ROESSLER
State Senator
18th Senate District

CR:/jhS:\DOCS\Jennifer\10-29-03 coulahan sb 72 supp..doc

Constituent Summary

Coulahan, Janet

Constituent

Constituent ID: 17895	Date Added: 03/06/2000
Gender:	Added By: conversion
Voter ID:	Date Modified: 10/29/2003
DOB: 02/06/1947	Modified By: JHalbur
Spouse:	Label: Janet Coulahan
Spouse ID:	Salutation: Janet
Comment:	

Address

Home	Household Salutation: Dennis and Janet	
Dennis and Janet Coulahan	Municipality: City of Fond Du Lac	Asm: 52
514 Greenwood St	County: Fond du Lac	Sen: 18
Fond Du Lac, WI 54935-5704	Ward: 0008	Cong: 6
	Carrier Route: C013	Odd/Even: E
Household Members:		
Dennis Coulahan		

Tags

Birth Date: 02/06/1947
 County: Fond Du Lac
 Imported from:: Poll Lists 1995-99
 Municipality: Fond Du Lac City
 Ward: 8

Vote Dates

11/01/1998	Unknown Election Date
04/01/1998	Unknown Election Date
04/01/1997	Spring Election 1997
02/01/1997	Unknown Election Date
11/01/1996	Unknown Election Date

Contacts

Contact Type: Phone Call	Summary: Supports SB 72
Status: Done	Issue:
Contact Date: 10/23/2003	Owner: Halbur, Jennifer
Closed Date: 10/29/2003	Assigned: Halbur, Jennifer
	Position:

Description: raising inpatient hospital stay raising from \$7,000 to &16,000. SB 72.

10/29/2003	JH sent letter
File	S:\DOCS\Jennifer\10-29-03 coulahan sb 72 supp..doc